

What do we do?

OMWBE develops programs designed to improve the contributions of minority and women-owned small businesses to Washington State's economy.

How do we do it?

OMWBE has three divisions working together to accomplish our goal.

Certification drives the cycle by certifying small businesses that are owned and controlled by persons who are minorities or women. (Persons who are socially and economically disadvantaged are also eligible for certification.)

Supplier Diversity: OMWBE works with state agencies to develop processes that encourage the use of certified firms in public contracting and procurement.

Economic Development completes the cycle by offering small business training, "MWBE Business Planner" and reduced interest rates through the Linked Deposit Program.

Why is it important?

The inclusion of all capable, competent and competitive firms in state contracting and procurement encourages competition, efficiency and creates jobs.



OMWBE is based in downtown Olympia.

Olympia

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Phone: (360) 753-9693

Toll Free: (866) 208-1064

Fax: (360) 586-7079

Customer services are available by appointment only at our community offices:

Seattle

US Small Business Administration

2401 4th Avenue, Suite #450

Seattle, WA 98121

Phone: (206) 553-7356

Fax: (206) 553-0194

Urban League of Metro Seattle Contractors
Development and Competitiveness Center
105 14th Ave. #100

Seattle, WA 98122

Phone: (206) 267-3163

Washington State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises [OMWBE]



www.omwbe.wa.gov

Or

Toll Free (866) 208-1064

Certification

OMWBE is authorized by the State of Washington to certify small businesses owned and controlled by women, minorities and disadvantaged persons for the State's Minority & Women's Business Enterprises (M/WBE) program.

OMWBE is under contract with WSDOT to certify eligible firms for The U.S. Department of Transportation, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. OMWBE also certifies DBEs for The Federal Aviation Administration (ACDBE) program and the Ports.

Benefits of Certification

- An advocate inside government.
- Listing in OMWBE's online directory provides increased visibility to government and private sector buyers.
- Direct connection to opportunities in the public sector.
- A cabinet level agency with access to the Governor's Office and directors of state agencies.
- Certified firms become eligible for the Linked Deposit Program.

Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible owner(s) who is/are
 - Minority (African American, Asian American/ Pacific Islander, Hispanic American, Native American/Alaska Native), woman, or socially and economically disadvantaged.
 - U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident
 - Own at least 51% of the firm and maintain managerial and operational control.
- Personal net worth does not exceed \$1.32 m (DBE only). Effective 2/28/11

- Firm must be:
 - Organized for profit
 - Independent
 - Have adequate resources to perform its work. ("Perform a commercially useful function" - M/WBE only)
 - A small business based on the U.S. Small Business Administration size standards, with an overall cap of \$22.41 million (Except: overall cap for an ACDBE firm is \$52.47 million).

"For a small business that is owned by a minority or woman, certification will pay off in the long run. We are thankful the State has this program.... It has boosted our reputation... OMWBE has introduced us to "WEBS" ... through that process we have been able to apply for some really great work!"

Tim Wang, Owner

Supplier Diversity

OMWBE supports the state's efforts to include certified firms in the procurement of goods and services, construction, consulting, and IT services by providing training and other services to state agencies and local jurisdictions. Services are available to major general contractors and state suppliers that request assistance in improving their M/WBE participation.

Visit www.omwbe.wa.gov/Supplier Diversity for more information.

Services include:

- Buyer Training
- Supplier Diversity Strategies
- Supplier Diversity Plan Development/ review assistance
- M/WBE Goal setting
- M/WBE Participation Reporting

Economic Development

OMWBE's economic development services are designed to refer and identify resources for your business growth.

MWBE Business Planner Series

Firms meet with agency representatives twice each month to learn about upcoming opportunities, contracting procedures, business regulations and sustainability programs. Firms may attend in person or by teleconference.

Workshop Series

OMWBE regularly conducts no-cost workshops addressing issues important to small businesses. Topics include: Certification Benefits & Process, Marketing Strategies for Small Business, and Selling to the State.

Visit www.omwbe.wa.gov/workshops to register.

Linked Deposit Program

M/WBE firms are eligible to enroll their business loans in this program and receive up to a 2% interest rate reductions. For more information:

Visit www.omwbe.wa.gov/LDP